

WEATHER

Fair tonight and probably tomorrow; warm tomorrow; lowest temperature tonight about 22 degrees; strong westerly winds.

Temperature for twenty-four hours ending 10 p.m. Highest 28, at 8 p.m. today; lowest 19, at 4 a.m. today.

Full report on page 9.

The Evening Star

"From Press to Home"
Within the Hour

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WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 1916—EIGHTEEN PAGES.

ONE CENT.

INFANTRY ATTACKS OF GERMAN FORCES HAVE COME TO HALT

Second Lull in Desperate Battle for Verdun on Douaumont Plateau.

REPULSE FOR FRENCH CLAIMED BY BERLIN

Violent Bombardment Continues From West of Meuse to Woerwe Region.

ADVANCES ON ALLIED FLANKS

Teutonic Thrusts at Vital Points Expected—Present Conflict May Have Far-Reaching Effect on Neutrals.

LONDON, March 4.—After the desperate battling on the Douaumont plateau in the renewal of the German drive for Verdun, there has come a second halt in the intense struggle. Paris today announces that there has been a cessation of infantry attacks by the crown prince's troops, although his artillery is still keeping up a heavy bombardment.

"The enemy was repulsed in an effort to retake Douaumont," the Berlin war office announced today, but this attack evidently refers to the fighting of yesterday, in which the French claim to have occupied the highest part of the mound on the northern slope of which the village of Douaumont is situated. Paris also claims that in counter attacks against the Germans the French regained ground in the immediate vicinity of Douaumont.

Bombardment Violent.
The bombardment continues very violent along the entire front from the west of the Meuse to the Woerwe region.

The continuation of artillery activity may indicate a speedy renewal of the action on the important front north-east of the fortress where the French lines form a salient. The importance of the German offensive in other sectors is not overlooked, however. There have been advances on both the French and the German fronts, and the dominating height of Le Mort Homme has been under the fire of German heavy guns for some days.

Satisfied With Situation.

Gen. Gallieni, French minister of war, has told the commission on military affairs of the chamber of deputies that he is satisfied with the situation at Verdun. He gave details of the reserves of men and stocks of ammunition now available.

Military writers say that it was in keeping with all the precedents that the Germans should attempt to reduce the salient of Douaumont plateau, for this key position must be taken before solid progress could be made elsewhere. The attack began after a long preliminary bombardment of the French lines. The attack began after a long preliminary bombardment of the French lines. The attack began after a long preliminary bombardment of the French lines.

Bring Up Reserves.

The French artillery fire was so fierce that evening that the Germans were unable to push attack on any point of the Douaumont plateau. They profited of the night, however, to bring up masses of reserves, and the fighting began with renewed fury Thursday. During the morning and the afternoon three desperate on-again-off-again attacks were made by German and Brandenburg regiments. In the first and second attacks the assailants, who fought with great bravery, reached the French barbed wire, but so fierce was the hail of bullets that the village was left in ruins. The third attack began about 6 o'clock in the afternoon. It was even more violent than those which have preceded. For more than an hour the Germans came on in series ranks, hurling themselves, regardless of cost, against the ridges in the French front. At last the defenders' line wavered at two points, but only momentarily, and the counter attack, driven home with the bayonet, drove the Germans back to the shelter of the chambers of the Douaumont ravines.

Fourth Advance After Dark.

The Germans then resumed the bombardment, plowing up the ground and pulverizing the rocks with hundreds of big shells. The fourth advance was made after dusk by fresh Prussian brigades, who had replaced the troops engaged in the morning and afternoon attacks. After desperate fighting they managed to get a footing on the extreme edge of the plateau, whence they pushed forward into the houses on the north side of the village. The Germans now hold the Douaumont plateau, but the French dominate the Douaumont ravine.

Towns Are Huge Hospitals.

Advices received in Geneva from Karlsruhe, Mannheim, Stuttgart and Coblenz are that those towns have been

PLANS FOR MEETING WITH EMPLOYES

Capital Traction Company to Discuss Grievances Alleged by Carmen.

EFFORT MADE TO ADJUST EXISTING DIFFERENCES

Officials of Neither Local Company Willing to Confer With Outside Parties.

The Capital Traction Company today announced its first move to checkmate efforts to combine its employees into the newly formed local branch of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees of America and, through this union, to demand better pay, shorter hours and better working conditions.

This move was to call meetings of its employees for 10:30 a.m. and 8 p.m. Monday, at which it is proposed to give full communication regarding conditions created by the communications presented Wednesday to both railway companies by the new organization.

President Hamilton's Statement.

A statement issued last night by George E. Hamilton, the president, is as follows:

"Meetings of the employees of the Capital Traction Company will be held in the new assembly hall at the Georgetown car barn Monday, March 6, at 10:30 a.m. and 8 p.m. The two meetings are arranged to accommodate the men on the different runs.

"At these meetings the receipt of a communication presented by a committee claiming to represent the employees of the company will be considered, and full communication made regarding the conditions thereby created, the company believing it to be to the interests of the employees that they be fully informed before taking position.

"Cards of admission, limited to employees, will be furnished by the department heads and division superintendents. All employees of the company are urged to attend.

Answers the Committee.

An answer was indited this morning by President Hamilton to the committee of three employees of the traction company which March 1 presented a proposed agreement between the new union and both the Capital Traction Company and the Washington Railway and Electric Company, for consideration. It is addressed to Messrs. Luther P. Morris, Robert M. Melton and A. P. Sweeney, who are the members of the committee.

"When, on March 1, you presented the paper referred to, this company was ignorant of the existence of any association or union of electric railway men in this city, and had no knowledge of the receipt of hundreds of telegrams from every part of the country congratulating the company on the receipt of the award. These telegrams uniformly praised the Americanism and courage and set him in the same class with Washington, Jackson and Lincoln. The sender urged him now that he has a free hand, to pursue the course he has been following.

Thinks Country Understands.

The White House also was gratified today by the belief that the country has not misunderstood the meaning of the Senate vote. Outside of Washington the impression, from the telegrams, seems to have been unanimous that the Senate, despite the complications injected at the last minute by Senator Gore, meant to give the President a free hand in his international work and did so. The country has evidently reached the same conclusion, if the many telegrams represent public sentiment.

Whatever the country believes, however, it is clearly known and understood that the President will proceed from now on with a firmer hand and will continue to stand by his position in all direct action without out warning, defensively armed passenger or merchant vessels, with Americans on board, and he wants to invite a break with the United States.

Regards Hands as Free.

The President told the country that he stood for compliance with international rules, and that the administration would back its position on that question by force, if necessary. He asked Congress to decide whether he was to be allowed to continue along those lines. He understands that Congress has given him a free hand and he is going to accept the responsibilities imposed on him.

TO ENFORCE SEAMAN'S LAW.

Preparations Made for Its Application to Foreign Vessels.

NEW YORK, March 4.—Preparations have been made here to put into effect today the La Follette seaman's law as applied to foreign vessels. It has been operative since November 4, as affecting American ships. Government agents are expected to refuse clearance passage to any foreign ships failing to comply with the requirements of the act. These specify the personnel of the crew, rights of individual seamen and sanitary appliances.

Noted in Basket Ball Game; Dies.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., March 4.—As the result of an injury sustained in a basketball game two weeks ago, Charles McLaughlin, aged twenty, a member of one of the local high school teams, died last night. McLaughlin severely bruised his ankle, from which blood poisoning developed.

NEW CUSTOMS TARIFF LAW IN TURKEY.

AMSTERDAM, via London, March 4.—A Constantinople dispatch states that the Turkish chamber of deputies has adopted a new general customs tariff law, effective next September 14, and operative for a period of three years. The committee which framed the measure assumed that the war will be over at the end of that time, when a new tariff will be necessary to conform to the changed economic conditions of the country.

Another Installment of the Mystery Serial, "MISSING—ROBERTA HOYT" by ADELE LUEHRMANN.

"A NEW YORK WOMAN WHO IS FOSTER MOTHER TO THOUSANDS OF LITTLE WAIFS."

"OVER SIXTY MILLION ACRES OF FARM LAND IN ALASKA," by FRANK G. CARPENTER.

"PARIS PREDICTS STARTLING CHANGES IN SPRING STYLES."

A full page of Essays by HERBERT KAUFFMANN.

In The Sunday Star

RESIGNATION TALE A PLOT, S HINTED

Intimated at White House That It Is a Part of Wide Conspiracy.

PRESIDENT'S NERVE FIRM; NO NOTION OF QUITTING

Thinks Country Understands Senate Vote and Regards Himself Now as Free Handed.

It was intimated at the White House today that the story printed in several cities that President Wilson is contemplating resigning his office, owing to the complications and worries of the international situation, is believed to be part of the organized propaganda that is openly charged in many directions.

There has been strong suspicion at the White House for many days that a publicity propaganda, designed to embarrass and cripple the President at every possible stage of his troubles with Germany, exists; is well fortified financially and otherwise, and will be manifest at every step taken by the White House in the future.

Secretary Tumulty's View.

President Wilson himself said nothing today on the subject, but Secretary Tumulty made the following comment:

"An American newspaper that would publish a story of that kind in a situation like the one which now confronts America dishonors itself.

Health and Nerves Good.

President Wilson's intimate friends said today that anybody who circulated a story of that kind did not know the stuff of which the President is made, had not the slightest conception of his moral fiber and tenacity of purpose. It was represented that the President, even if in serious health, would stick to the job he has set out to perform until the last strength had left him. But he is in good health, and his nerves are known by his intimate friends to be calm and collected; and he plays a great deal in the fresh air and plays golf, and is usually the strain upon him is great, but his will and his nerve will enable him to hold his own, it is declared on competent authority.

If the President is disgusted and annoyed over the alleged propaganda stories, he was heartened today by the receipt of hundreds of telegrams from every part of the country congratulating the President and his administration. These telegrams uniformly praised the Americanism and courage and set him in the same class with Washington, Jackson and Lincoln. The sender urged him now that he has a free hand, to pursue the course he has been following.

Laden Barge in Tow of Tug Off Cape Henry Disappears During Night.

NORFOLK, Va., March 4.—The fifty-six-mile gale off the cape, accompanied by a driving snowstorm, caused considerable damage to the shipping. It is feared, as reports of vessels in distress have been received.

A tug with two loaded barges in tow anchored off Cape Henry last night during the storm, it is reported by the weather bureau station at that point. This morning only one barge was seen, and she was flying the distress signal.

A report from Virginia Beach stated that some vessel was sending distress signals off the shore there during the night, and it is thought probable that this may have been one of the barges, which drifted to that location with the wind.

Steamer Asks for Help.

The Clyde steamer Apache, presumably from Jacksonville for New York, has asked for assistance while lying about fifty miles off Cape Henry. Nothing further is known as to her trouble, but the Merritt & Chapman wrecking steamer Rescue has been sent to her with instructions to tow her to New York.

A two-masted schooner was said to have grounded during the night in Lynn Haven roads, but her name could not be ascertained.

The tug John V. Chandler, with the barges Upton and Rockland-Rockport No. 7, anchored off Cape Henry last night after putting back from the sea. The tug left here Thursday with the two barges laden with coal for New England ports.

The Cape Henry weather bureau reported that United States coast guard cutter Onondaga was lying by the only barge there at that time, making ready to tow her to Norfolk.

HIDDEN AMMUNITION FOUND.

SHANGHAI, March 4.—The police have discovered five cases of artillery ammunition at the bottom of a well in the garden attached to the residence of the German who was said to have been the instigator of a plan to send war munitions secretly to India.

A dispatch from Shanghai in last October said that three Chinese had been placed on trial there charged with having in their possession 130 pistols and 20,000 cartridges, and that it was testified that a German had delivered them to the Chinese with instructions to ship to India hidden in specially constructed packages.

Injured in Basket Ball Game; Dies.

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MARCH FOUR.

VESSELS IN GALE SIGNAL FOR HELP

Driving Snowstorm on Atlantic Coast Believed to Have Damaged Shipping.

CLYDE STEAMER APACHE REPORTED IN DISTRESS

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South American Business

Business men of the United States have been looking more and more toward South America as a market for their goods and capital.

On page 5 of today's Star will be found advertisements of live, wideawake, South American firms who are trying to interest you in their country and its opportunities.

Your opportunity may be here.

FIVE LOSE THEIR LIVES IN COAL BARGE WRECKS

Two Light Craft in Tow to Boston Break From Tug and Hit Ledges.

SCITUATE, Mass., March 4.—Two light coal barges, the Ashland and Kohinoor, which broke apart from the tug Swatara, in tow for Philadelphia, were wrecked last night on Minots light ledges. Five men, the crew of the Kohinoor, were lost, while five men aboard the Ashland were washed ashore on the deckhouse early today and hauled through the breakers to safety.

The North Scituate coast guard picked up an exhausted man from the Kohinoor, who died before the tugboat landed. The bodies of Capt. Ira Montgomery of Philadelphia and other members of the Kohinoor's crew had not been recovered this forenoon.

Tug Encounters Gale.

The tug encountered a gale soon after leaving Boston harbor. The towing hawser parted, and the barges fetched up on the ledges, the Kohinoor going to pieces almost immediately.

Capt. Estrand of the Ashland said the Swatara with her remaining barge, the Kimberston, probably kept on to Provincetown. The barges were owned by the Philadelphia and Reading Transportation Company.

OLD-LINE REPUBLICANS MEET.

Convention in California to Select National Delegates.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 4.—"Old line" republicans from all parts of California gathered here today to hold a state convention for the purpose of choosing twenty-six candidates as nominees for the delegation to the republican national convention in Chicago.

Francis V. Keessling, chairman of the republican state central committee, who issued the call for today's convention, said that all hope of compromise with the "new," or as they term themselves, "united," republicans had vanished. The ticket to be chosen today will be voted on at a primary election May 2, at which the delegation to Chicago will be selected.

THIRTY PERSONS KILLED IN EXPLOSION NEAR FORT

PARIS, March 4, 1:54 p.m.—Thirty persons were killed and 150 were badly injured in the explosion near St. Denis, the suburbs of Paris, this morning.

The explosion occurred near the fort called "Double Couronne," at Courbevoie. Part of the ramparts east of the fort were blown up.

A quantity of explosives, including hand grenades, was stored in this position. The explosion, although of less severity, on account of the flames.

The explosion was caused by the accidental dropping of a case of grenades by soldiers of the reserve.

WILLIAM F. KELLEY DIES

American Consul in Rome Expires While Seated in His Chair.

ROME, March 4, via Paris, 1:10 p.m.—William F. Kelley, the American consul here, was found dead in a chair shortly before the breakfast hour today. Death was probably due to heart disease.

Consul Kelley was fifty-one years old. He was clerk of the Senate of State Bryan in October, 1913, and later was promoted to the office of assistant secretary of the State Department. He has been consul at Rome since June, 1915. His wife is now visiting in Washington.

Mr. Kelley was born in Fremont, Ohio, December 2, 1864. He was educated at Hillsdale College. He was appointed to federal office from Lincoln, Neb., where he practiced law for twenty-two years.

WOMAN DELEGATES CHOSEN.

Four Nominated to National Democratic Convention From California.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 4.—The democratic committee that selected at a meeting early this week nominees for the California delegation to the St. Louis national convention announced today that in addition to three women candidates nominated the name of Mrs. Bird E. Hobdy of El Centro had been substituted for that of one of the male nominees.

This action was taken, Sydney Van Wyck, Jr., explained, because of criticism of women who attended the meeting May 2, at which the delegation to Chicago will be selected.

VARIANCE VIEW OF SENATE ACTION

Supporters of Original "Warning" Resolution Say Issue Is Left in Air.

ADMINISTRATION LEADERS SATISFIED WITH RESULT

Point to Wording of James' Motion to Support Claim of Clean-Cut Victory.

While supporters of the original Gore resolution to warn Americans off armed merchant vessels of belligerent powers continued to insist today that the vote taken in the Senate on tabling the amended Gore resolution has left the issue in the air, supporters of the President on both sides of the chamber declared that the Senate's action could not be confused because of technical parliamentary entanglements.

The opponents of the Gore warning resolution said that the weakness of the support of that resolution was manifested clearly by the very act of Senator Gore in amending his resolution at the last moment so as to change its meaning. They asserted that the Senate would have overwhelmingly voted to table the warning resolution as originally drafted had Senator Gore permitted it to come to a vote.

Point to Record of the Vote.

To claims of a mixed victory in the Senate yesterday and to contentions of the anti-administration forces that the Senate evaded voting on tabling the Gore resolution itself, through a complex parliamentary situation, the administration leaders today pointed to the official Congressional Record of the Senate proceedings.

They pointed out that while tabling the amended resolution, declaring that the sinking of an armed merchant vessel of an enemy power with American citizens aboard was a war act, the Senate also had laid on the table the McCumber substitute, which clearly contained warning to American citizens not to travel on armed merchantmen while the issue between Germany and Germany was unsettled.

View of President's Supporters.

Senator James of Kentucky, Senator Simmons of North Carolina and other administration supporters said, therefore, there would be no further action by the Senate in the matter unless a warning resolution was introduced and called up again, and that if such a resolution did come before the Senate it would be passed overwhelmingly. Senator McCumber of North Dakota reintroduced his resolution, and it is possible that in the future he may demand a vote on it.

The Senate took a recess, however, last evening, and the business before it today when it assembled was the Shields dam site bill. Under the rules of the Senate, unless this bill is displaced by a vote or laid aside by unanimous consent nothing else can come before the Senate today.

Attempt to Gag Allowed.

Criticism was heaped upon the President's supporters in the Senate because they had attempted to "gag" the Senate by a motion to table the Gore resolution. Senator Borah of Idaho, Senator Cummins of Iowa and Senator Norris of Nebraska were outspoken in their denunciation of the tactics of the administration supporters.

As far as the Senate was concerned, the Senate's action today was a tactical move, and it was not a matter of principle. The Senate's action today was a tactical move, and it was not a matter of principle.

Senator Kern of Nebraska, who was employed did not succeed in shutting off debate after the vote on tabling the table had been had. Senators discussed the matter until far into the afternoon.

Senator Fall, a republican, said: "By your action today you have sent to the Kaiser, if you have done anything, notice that the Senate of the United States will support the action of armed merchant ships and the death of an American citizen probably will be the result of their action. No action would be taken against him."

Senator Kern Defends Action.

On the other hand, Senator Kern, the majority leader, upheld the action, asserting that it would proclaim to all nations that the President, in exercising his constitutional powers in the conduct of negotiations, spoke "not for himself, not for his party, but for all the people of his country." He said: "You are prepared to back him with their lives in an insistence on American rights."

Senator Kern said that he was not a senator who had spoken during the day of explaining their votes in an attempt to influence the President after voting to satisfy the President, whom he termed "the head of the pie."

"If a few more confessions are made here the President will have a real expression of the sentiment of the Senate," he said. "If you want the confessions, you will find the senators believe in warning citizens from armed ships. If you want the confessions, you will find the senators believe in warning citizens from armed ships. If you want the confessions, you will find the senators believe in warning citizens from armed ships."

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VOTE IN THE HOUSE ON SHIP WARNING AGAIN IS DELAYED

Leaders Agree Not to Act on the McLemore Resolution Before Tuesday.

FIGHT ON RULE IS FEARED BY ADMINISTRATION MEN

Its Defeat Would Leave the President Without Any Expression From the House.

DEBATE RENEWED IN SENATE

Conviction Expressed That Vote Must Be Taken Directly on Merits of Warning Proposal.

The House today refused to take an immediate vote on the proposal to table the McLemore resolution warning American citizens off armed belligerent merchant ships. No vote will be taken before Tuesday.